



JENSEN TRAVEL

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9/28/00

Department of Transportation
United States Government
Washington, DC

057-00-5013-5

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RE: TIME CHANGE FOR MERCER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

To Whom It May Concern:

I own an ARC approved travel agency in Hazen, North Dakota. We have a branch office in Bismarck, North Dakota. The two agencies being on different time Zones is a hardship to both offices. There is an hours discrepancy in the AM again in the PM, and the lunch hour disrupts two hours, leaving 4 hours that both offices are open at the same time over the course of an 8 hour workday.

Additionally we have outside sales people in Williston, Garrison and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, all in the central time zone.

The airports serving western North Dakota are in Minot and Bismarck and both are in the central time zone.

All Amtrak depots in North Dakota are in the central time zone, including those a hundred miles to our west, since the route used by Amtrak is the northern route with Williston being the most western stop in North Dakota.

Our daily newspaper, and major TV and radio stations are all located in the central time zone. Any advertising we do results in 6AM phone calls forwarded to my home from people who are reading their morning papers at that time. Since it is economically necessary to get these calls, we forward everything to our home and take on average five calls a day before opening.

This testimony if presented in public would be economic suicide in the politically charged atmosphere of Mercer County, therefore, I have chosen this method to present my thoughts and views. Please give consideration to the points that I make and move Mercer County into the central time zone and the 21st century.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jack Jensen